

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	) Attorney Docket No.: <b>ASAIN0188</b>
Kazuhiko KATSUMATA	)
	) Confirmation No.: 3283
Serial No.: 10/599,034	)
	) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
Filed: September 18, 2006	)
	) Examiner: Unassigned
For: DOUBLE-CHAMBER TYPE HEAT-	)
TREATING FURNACE	) Date: October 11, 2006
	)

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

**MAIL STOP: PCT**  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, this Information Disclosure Statement in connection with the above-identified application is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b):

- ☐ within three months of the filing date of this application (not a C.P.A.);
- ☒ within three months of the date of entry of the National Stage;
- ☐ before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits; or
- ☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits of, after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under §1.114.

A copy of each non-U.S. document identified on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B is attached, however, in accordance with Official Gazette Notice dated August 5, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached.

Foreign Patent Document 1 relates to a method for accelerating gas circulation cooling

in vacuum furnace. Non-Patent Literature Document 1 relates to a vacuum heat treatment. Their relevance is believed to be clear from the specification of the present application. Accordingly, no further comment with regard to the disclosures of these documents is believed to be required.

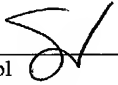
Also attached is a copy of the Search Report issued in the corresponding International application. Since all of the remaining documents cited herein were cited in said Search Report, it is believed that the relevancy of each document cited is clear from the Search Report. Accordingly, no further comment with regard to the disclosures of these documents is believed to be required.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and officially cited, and that the Examiner initial a copy of Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B, and return them to the undersigned to indicate that the documents have been considered.

It is believed that the present Information Disclosure Statement complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-8, but should the filing of this paper necessitate a fee, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1281.

Respectfully submitted,

*GRIFFIN & SZIPL, PC*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joerg-Uwe Szapl  
Registration No. 31,799

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, PC  
Suite PH-1  
2300 Ninth Street, South  
Arlington, VA 22204  
Telephone: (703) 979-5700  
Facsimile: (703) 979-7429  
E-mail: gands@szipl.com  
Customer No.: 24203